POLITICAL PROGRAMME
OF
THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

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for Liberation

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In 1960, the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation came into being with a 10-point Programme aimed at uniting the entire people against the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys.

Since then, the Front has achieved broad union *of the various sections of the people, the political parties, organizations, nationalities, religious* com*munities, and patriotic personalities with a view to jointly fighting against U.S. aggression, for national salvation. It has successfully consolidated its base among the broad masses of the people; at the same time, it has engaged in joint action with many political and religious forces, and won over large numbers of manufacturers and traders, officials and functionaries of the puppet administration, and officers and soldiers of the puppet army.*

The Front has constantly enjoyed wholehearted encouragement and assistance from our compatriots in the North *and* abroad. *It has also enjoyed ever* *stronger approval and support from the peoples of neighbouring* Cambodia *and* Laos, *from the peoples of the* socialist, nationalist *and* other countries *in the world,* including progressive people *in the United States.*

Under the leadership of the N.F.L., our people in the South have gone from victory to victory. The prestige of the Front has been unceasingly enhanced at home and abroad. The South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation has become the sole genuine representative of the heroic South Vietnamese people.

These great achievements prove that the line and policy of the Front are correct, and that the strength of our people's unity and struggle is invincible.

At present, despite heavy defeats, the U.S. imperialists are still unwilling to give up their aggressive designs against Viet Nam. They are stepping up the war, trampling the South, and intensifying the bombing of the North of our country. The monstrous crimes of the U.S. imperialists, however, have only deepened our people's hatred and strengthened their indomitable will. The people of all walks of life in South Viet Nam, even a number of persons in the puppet army and administration, have clearly seen the true features of the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys, hate them, and want to contribute to the struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation.

Never before in our nation's history has the mettle of our entire people, united for the fight to wipe out the enemy and save the country, been so strong as *now. Our people are in a victorious position, they firmly hold the initiative and are acting on the offensive. The U.S. imperialists and their lackeys have been driven into a state of increasing passivity and perplexity; they are in an impasse and are sustaining defeats.*

At this juncture, in a spirit of developing its former Programme, the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation has worked out this Political Programme with a view to further broadening the bloc of great national union, encouraging and urging the entire people to rush forward, resolved to fight and defeat the U.S. aggressors, and to build an independent, demccratic, peaceful, neutral and prosperous South Viet Nam.

I

UNITE THE ENTIRE PEOPLE, FIGHT THE U.S. AGGRESSORS, SAVE THE COUNTRY

1. During the four thousand years of their history, the Vietnamese people have united and fought against foreign invasions to preserve their independence and freedom.

Ever since our country was conquered by the French colonialists, our people have fought unremittingly for their liberation. In 1945, our people from North to South rose up, successfully carried out the August Revolution, seized political power from the Japanese militarists and their lackeys, and founded the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

When the French colonialists came back to invade our country once again, our entire people heroically fought for nearly nine years, brought our sacred resistance to the great victory of Dien Bien Phu, smashing the aggressive schemes of the French colonialists and the interventionist policy of the U.S. imperialists.

The independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Viet Nam were formally recognized by the 1954 *Geneva Conference.* Since then, our compatriots in South Viet Nam, together with the people all over the country, should have been living in peace and building a free and happy life. However, the U.S. imperialists have sabotaged the Geneva Agreements, ousted the French colonialists, set up in South Viet Nam an extremely cruel puppet regime, and tried to turn the southern part of Viet Nam into a neo-colony and a military base in an attempt to prolong the partition of our country, conquer the whole of Viet Nam and impose their domination throughout Indo-China and South East Asia.

The U.S. imperialists have shrunk from no cruel method to carry out their dark designs. Defeated in their "special war" they have switched to a "local war", using over half a million U.S. and satellite troops, along with more than half a million puppet soldiers, for aggression against South Viet Nam; at the same time, they have undertaken a war of destruction against the northern part of our country. They have also stepped up their "special war" in Laos and carried out continual provocations aimed at wrecking the independence and neutrality of Cambodia.

The U.S. imperialists are daily causing untold sufferings and mourning to our compatriots throughout the country. They have resorted to all kinds of modern war means and weapons, including strategic aircraft, napalm bombs, toxic chemicals and poison gas, to massacre our fellow-countrymen. They have launched repeated operations, "sweeping" again and again many areas, carrying out the "kill all, burn all, destroy all" policy to raze villages and hamlets to the ground. They have herded the population, grabbed land, and set up "no man's land" and fascist-type concentration camps dubbed "strategic hamlets" "prosperity zones", "resettlement areas", etc. In the North, they have wantonly bombed and strafed streets, villages, industrial centres, heavily populated areas; they have even struck at dikes, dams, schools, hospitals, churches, pagodas.

The U.S. imperialists are clearly the most ruthless aggressors in history, the saboteurs of the 1954 Geneva Agreements, the wreckers of the peace and security of the peoples of Indo-China, South East Asia and the world, the enemy number one of our people and of mankind.

Over the past few years, the U.S. imperialists have continually escalated the war, yet they have unceasingly clamoured about "peace negotiations" in an attempt to deceive the American and world people.

The Saigon puppet administration has sold out South Viet Nam to the U.S. imperialists. It has oppressed and exploited our Southern compatriots in an extremely ruthless way. It has forced South Viet Nam youths into the army to serve the U.S. in the massacre of our fellow-countrymen. In a demagogic bid, it has also staged the farce of "working out a constitution" and "holding elections". It is only a clique of traitors, a *tool for the U.S. imperialists* to enslave the South Vietnamese people, prolong the partition of our country and serve the U.S. war of aggression.

2. The U.S. aggressors and their lackeys think they can intimidate our people by the use of force and deceive them by means of tricks. But they are grossly mistaken. Our people definitely will never submit to force, never let themselves be deceived!

Developing our nation's tradition of dauntlessness, our 31 million compatriots from South to North have resolutely stood up, united as one man, to fight the U.S. aggressors and save the country.

In the frontline of the Fatherland, our Southern fellow-countrymen have over the past 13 years shown splendid heroism. Irrespective of age, sex political tendency, religious belief, and no matter whether they live in the plains or in mountain areas, our people of all strata and all nationalities have resolutely fought shoulder to shoulder to liberate the South, defend the North, and advance toward the reunification of the Fatherland.

As early as 1959-1960, our compatriots in the South Viet Nam countryside carried out "simultaneous uprisings", destroyed whole series of concentration camps and "prosperity zones" of the U.S. imperialists and the puppet administration, and liberated vast rural areas.

Our armed forces and people then rushed forward, destroyed thousands of "strategic hamlets", liberated millions of people, and defeated the U.S. "special war".

Since 1965, although the U.S. aggressors have brought in hundreds of thousands of U.S. expeditionary troops for direct aggression against South Viet Nam, our armed forces and people have repeatedly won big victories, smashed two successive U.S. dry-season strategic counter-offensives, defeated over one million enemy troops (U.S., puppet and satellite). *The liberated areas have continuously expanded and now already make up four-fifths of the South Viet Nam territory with two-thirds of its population. In these liberated areas, a national and democratic power is taking shape and a new life is blossoming. In addition to big military victories, we have also recorded important successes in the political, economic, cultural and diplomatic fields.*

In the beloved Northern part of the Fatherland, our 17 million compatriots are heroically defeating the U.S. imperialists' war of destruction, maintaining and boosting production, wholeheartedly encouraging and helping the cause of liberating the South, thus fulfilling the obligations of the great rear toward the great front.

In the world, the peoples of the socialist, nationalist and other countries, including progressive people in the United States, are sternly condemning the U.S. imperialists' war of aggression, and are giving their approval, support and assistance to our people's struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation.

Facts have clearly shown that the more the U.S. imperialists obdurately intensify and expand their war of aggression against our country, the more bitter defeats they sustain and the more they are isolated; on the other hand, our people win ever greater victories and get ever more friends.

3. The most dangerous enemies of our people at present are the U.S. imperialist aggressors and their lackeys — the traitorous puppet administration.

The present tasks and objectives of the South Vietnamese people in their struggle for national salvation are: *to unite the entire people, resolutely defeat the U.S. imperialists' war of aggression, overthrow their lackeys, the puppet administration,* *establish a broad democratic national union administration, build an independent, democratic, peaceful, neutral and prosperous South Viet Nam, and advance toward the peaceful reunification of the Fatherland.*

The force that guarantees the fulfilment of the above task of fighting against U.S. aggression to save the country is our *great national union.* The South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation constantly stands for uniting *all social strata and classes, all nationalities, all political parties, all organizations, all religious communities,* all patriotic personalities, all patriotic and progressive individuals and forces irrespective of political tendency, in order to struggle together against the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys, wrest back our sacred national rights, and build up the country.

The South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation is ready to welcome into its ranks all patriotic forces and individuals who oppose the U.S. aggressors, to shoulder together the common duties. It proposes that any force which, for one reason or another, does not join its ranks, take joint actions with it against the common enemy, the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys.

The South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation pledges itself to strive, shoulder to shoulder with the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, to fulfil gloriously the common task of *fighting against U.S. aggression to liberate the South, defend the North and advance toward the peaceful reunification of the Fatherland.*

While fighting for their sacred national rights, the people of South Viet Nam actively accomplish their internationalist duty. Their resistance war against U.S. aggression is an integral part of the revolutionary struggle of the people all over the world.

The South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation undertakes to stand within the united bloc of the Indo-Chinese peoples to fight against the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys, to defend the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos.

The South Viet Nam National Front For Liberation pledges itself to take an active part in the common struggle of the world's peoples against the bellicose and aggressive imperialists headed by U.S. imperialism, for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress.

4. The cruel U.S. aggressors are trampling our homeland. We, the people of South Viet Nam, must stand up to make revolution and wage a people's war with a view to annihilating them, driving them out of our borders, and wresting back national independence and sovereignty.

Having experienced over 20 years of war, our Southern compatriots eagerly want to live in peace and rebuild our war-devastated country. But the U.S. imperialists have trampled upon this legitimate aspiration. That is why our people have to fight against them to win peace in independence. Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom. *Only when real independence is secured can we have genuine peace !*

The enemy of our nation is ruthless and obdurate. But our entire people are determined to fight and to defeat the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys. So long as the U.S. imperialists do not end their war of aggression, withdraw all U.S. and satellite troops from our country, and let the South Vietnamese people settle themselves the internal affairs of South Viet Nam without foreign interference, our people will resolutely fight on until total victory. The South Vietnamese people's liberation war is a long and hard one, but it is sure to end in victory.

Cur people rely mainly on their own forces ; at the same time, they strive to win the sympathy, support and assistance of the world's peoples.

To defeat the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys, our people shrink from no sacrifice, they enthusiastically contribute manpower, material resources and talent to the national liberation war, in the spirit of doing everything for the front, everything for victory.

The South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation undertakes to develop the liberation armed forces comprising the main-force units, the regional troops and the militia and guerilla units, with the aim of promoting the people's war, combining guerilla with regular warfare, wiping out as much vital force of the enemy as possible, crushing the enemy's will for aggression, and winning final victory.

The Front undertakes to *build and develop the political forces of the masses,* promote political struggle, combine armed struggle with political struggle and agitation among enemy troops, thus forming three converging prongs to defeat the enemy.

The South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation undertakes to *encourage all strata of the population in the towns and rural areas still under enemy control* to unite and struggle in every possible form to break the grip of the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys, destroy the "phuong" (guilds) and "strategic hamlets", demand democratic freedoms, national sovereignty, and a better life, oppose pressganging and forced labour, struggle against enslaving and depraved culture, and march forward, together with the entire people, to overthrow the enemy's rule and seize political power.

At the same time, the Front undertakes *to encourage all strata of the people in the liberated areas* to unite closely, build the people's self-management system, set up step by step a local national democratic administration, build base areas; strive to produce and fight against U.S. aggression, for national salvation; continue solving the agrarian problem satisfactorily; build a new economy and culture for the liberated areas, foster the people's forces with a view to ensuring supplies for the frontline and carrying the resistance war through to complete victory.

II

BUILD AN INDEPENDENT, DEMOCRATIC, PEACEFUL, NEUTRAL AND PROSPEROUS SOUTH VIET NAM

The people of South Viet Nam are determined to defeat the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys, and to devote themselves body and soul to building a political system that guarantees the independence and sovereignty of the nation and the freedom and happiness of the people, to heal the wounds of war, to liquidate the social evils left by the U.S.-puppet regime, to restore normal life and build an independent, democratic, peaceful, neutral and prosperous South Viet Nam. To achieve these objectives, the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation lays down the following concrete policies :

1. TO SET UP A PROGRESSIVE REGIME OF BROAD DEMOCRACY

— To abolish the disguised colonial regime established by the U.S. imperialists in South Viet Nam, to overthrow the puppet administration, hireling of the United States ; not to recognize the puppet "national assembly" rigged up by the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys ; to abolish the "constitution" and all anti-national and anti-democratic laws enacted by the U.S. imperialists and the puppet administration.

— To hold free general *elections* to elect a National Assembly in a really democratic way in accordance with the principle of universal, equal, direct suffrage and secret ballot. This National Assembly will be the State body with the highest authority in South Viet Nam; it will work out a democratic constitution which fully embodies the most fundamental and most eager aspirations of all social strata in South Viet Nam and guarantee the establishment of a progressive State structure of broad democracy. To guarantee the immunity of the deputies to the National Assembly.

— To set up a democratic national union government including the most representative persons among the various social strata, nationalities, religious communities, patriotic and democratic parties, patriotic personalities, and forces which have contributed to the cause of national liberation.

— To proclaim and ensure broad democratic freedoms: freedom of speech, freedom of the press and publication, freedom of assembly, trade-union freedom, freedom of association, freedom to form political parties, freedom of creed, freedom of demonstration.

— To guarantee to all citizens inviolability of the body, freedom of residence, secrecy of correspondence, freedom of movement, the right to work and rest, and to study.

— To enforce equality between man and woman and equality among the various nationalities.

— To set free all persons detained by the U.S. imperialists and the puppet administration on account of their patriotic activities.

— To dissolve the concentration camps set up in all forms by the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys.

— To give all people who have had to seek asylum abroad because of the U.S.-puppet regime, the right to return home to serve the country.

— To severely punish the die-hard cruel agents of the U.S. imperialists.

2. TO BUILD AN INDEPENDENT AND SELF-SUPPORTING ECONOMY; TO IMPROVE THE PEOPLE'S LIVING CONDITIONS

— To abolish the policy of economic enslavement and monopoly of the U.S. imperialists.

— To confiscate the property of the U.S. imperialists and their die-hard cruel agents and turn it into State property.

— To build an independent and self-supporting economy. To rapidly heal the wounds of war, to restore and develop the economy so as to make the country prosperous.

— To protect the citizens' right to ownership of means of production and other property in keeping with the laws of the State.

— To restore and develop agricultural production. To improve cultivation, animal husbandry, fish-rearing and forestry.

The State will encourage the peasants to unite and help one another boost production; grant them loans at low interest rates for the purchase of buffaloes, oxen, farm implements, agricultural machines, seeds, fertilizers, etc.; help them develop irrigation works and apply advanced agricultural techniques.

— To guarantee outlets for agricultural products.

— To restore and develop industry, small industries and handicrafts.

— To guarantee to the workers and employees the right to take part in the management of enterprises.

The State will encourage businessmen to participate in the development of industry, small industries and handicrafts.

— To ensure freedom of enterprise beneficial to national construction and the people's welfare; to apply a customs policy designed to promote and protect home-production.

— To restore and develop communications and transport.

— To encourage and step up economic exchanges between town and country, between the plains and the mountain areas.

— To give due consideration to the interests of small traders and small manufacturers.

— To set up a State bank.

— To create an independent currency.

— To apply an equitable and rational tax policy.

The State will adopt a policy of granting loans at low interest rates to encourage production, and will prohibit usury.

—To develop economic relations with the North; the two zones will help each other so that Viet Nam's economy may prosper rapidly.

—In accordance with the Front's policy of neutrality and the principles of equality, mutual benefit and respect for the independence and sovereignty of the Vietnamese nation, foreign trade will be expanded, and economic and technical assistance from foreign countries will be accepted, regardless of political and social systems.

3. TO IMPLEMENT THE LAND POLICY, TO CARRY OUT THE SLOGAN: "LAND TO THE TILLERS"

—To confiscate the lands of the U.S. imperialists and the die-hard cruel landlords, their lackeys; to allot those lands to landless or land-poor peasants.

—To confirm and protect the peasants' ownership of the lands allotted to them by the revolution.

—The State will negotiate the purchase of land from landlords who possess land upward of a certain amount varying with the situation in each locality; it will allot these lands to landless or land-poor peasants. The recipients will receive the lands free of charge, and will not be bound by any condition whatsoever. In areas where the required conditions for land reform do not yet obtain, land-rent will be reduced.

—To entrust the lands belonging to absentee landlords to peasants for cultivation and enjoyment of the produce. Adequate steps will be taken on this subject at a later stage upon consideration of the political attitude of each landlord.

—To allow landlords to offer land to the Liberation Peasants' Association or to the State. The Liberation Peasants' Association and the State will allot those lands to landless or land-poor peasants.

—To encourage the owners of industrial crop or fruit tree plantations to keep production going.

—To respect the legitimate right to land ownership of churches, pagodas and holy sees of religious sects.

—To carry out a fair and rational re-distribution of communal lands.

—To guarantee the legitimate right to ownership of reclaimed lands to those who have reclaimed them.

—Those who have been herded into "strategic hamlets" or concentration camps of any form are free to return to their former villages.

—Those who have been compelled to "evacuate" or to "move away" and who wish to stay where they are, will enjoy ownership of the lands and other property resulting from their labour, and will be helped so that they can continue earning their living in those places; those who wish to return to their native places will also receive help.

4. TO BUILD A NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CULTURE AND EDUCATION, TO DEVELOP SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; TO PROMOTE PUBLIC HEALTH

— To eliminate the American-type enslaving and depraved culture and education now adversely affecting our people's fine, long-standing cultural traditions.

— To build a national democratic culture and education; to develop science and technology to serve national construction and defence.

— To educate the people in the Vietnamese nation's tradition of struggle against foreign invasion and its heroic history. To preserve and develop the fine culture and good customs and habits of our nation.

— To raise the people's cultural standard: to liquidate illiteracy, to promote complementary education; to open new general education schools, higher education establishments and vocational schools. To make all-out efforts to train and foster scientific workers, technicians and skilled workers.

— To use the Vietnamese language as teaching medium in higher education establishments. To reduce school and college fees;

— To exempt poor pupils and students from school fees, and grant them scholarships.

— To reform the system of examinations.

—To give every possible help to the youth and children who have rendered services in the fight against U.S. aggression, for national salvation, the children of families who have rendered services to the revolution, and other outstanding youth so as to enable them to study and develop their capabilities.

—To enable all citizens to carry out freely scientific and technological researches, to devote themselves to literary and artistic creation, and to participate in other cultural activities. To encourage intellectuals, writers, artists and scientists and afford them favourable conditions for research work, creation and invention in the service of the Fatherland and the people.

—To give help to cultural workers, writers and artists who have been persecuted by the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys owing to their patriotic activities.

—To develop health services, hygiene and prophylaxis. To attend to the people's health. To prevent and eliminate epidemics, to do away with dangerous diseases left by the U.S.-puppet regime.

—To develop physical culture and sports.

—To develop cultural relations with the North; the two zones will help each other raise the people's educational level and foster talent.

—To promote cultural relations with foreign countries on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

5. TO SAFEGUARD THE INTERESTS OF FACTORY AND OFFICE WORKERS AND OTHER LABOURING PEOPLE AND SEE TO THEIR LIVELIHOOD

— To promulgate labour legislation, to put into practice the 8-hour working day; to provide for a regime of rest and recreation; to set up a rational system of wages and bonuses for increased productivity.

— To improve the living and working conditions of workers, labourers and civil servants.

— To apply a policy of adequate remuneration for apprentices.

— To see to the employment of workers and poor urban people; actively to do away with unemployment.

— To put into practice a social security policy in order to care for and assist workers, labourers and civil servants in case of disease, incapacitation, old age or retirement.

— To improve living conditions in working people's residential quarters.

— To settle disputes between employers and employees through negotiations between the two sides and mediation by the national democratic administration.

— To strictly prohibit ill-treatment of workers and labourers; to strictly prohibit wage dockings, fines and unjustified sacking of workers.

6. TO BUILD POWERFUL SOUTH VIET NAM LIBERATION ARMED FORCES WITH A VIEW TO LIBERATING THE PEOPLE AND DEFENDING THE FATHERLAND

— The South Viet Nam Liberation Armed Forces (comprising the main-force units, teh regional troops, and the militia and guerilla units) are sprung from the people; they are boundlessly loyal to the interests of the Fatherland and the people, and duty-bound to fight shoulder to shoulder with the entire people to liberate the South, defend the Fatherland and make an active contribution to the defence of peace in Asia and in the world.

— To pay due attention to the building of the Liberation Armed Forces. To strive to raise their quality and increase their fighting capacity with a view to stepping up the people's war, defeating the U.S., satellite and puppet troops, and bringing the fight against U.S. aggression, for national salvation, to total victory.

— To strengthen political work with a view to enhancing the patriotism and determination to fight and win of the Liberation Armed Forces; to raise their sense of discipline; to continuously tighten the "fish-and-water" relations between the Army and the people.

— Officers and men of the Liberation Armed Forces enjoy the right to vote and to stand for election, and enjoy land rights and all other citizen rights.

7. TO SHOW GRATITUDE TO WAR MARTYRS, TO CARE FOR DISABLED ARMYMEN, TO REWARD ARMYMEN AND CIVILIANS WHO HAVE DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST U.S. AGGRESSION, FOR NATIONAL SALVATION

The entire people are grateful to, and constantly honour the memory of war martyrs of the Liberation Armed Forces and of all other revolutionary services and organizations, and those who laid down their lives in political struggles. Their families are cared for and assisted by the State and the people.

— To give care and assistance to armymen and civilians disabled in the course of armed and political struggle.

— To reward in a worthy manner all armymen and civilians who have distinguished themselves in the struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation.

Families who have rendered services to the revolution will be remembered and will receive help.

8. TO ORGANIZE SOCIAL RELIEF

— To give relief to compatriots victims of the war of aggression unleashed by the U.S. imperialists and the puppet regime.

— To care for orphans, old folk and invalid people. To organize relief work in areas affected by natural calamities or bad crops.

— To give consideration also to disabled puppet soldiers and to needy and helpless families of puppet soldiers killed in action.

— To help those driven to depravation by the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys to rebuild their lives to serve the Fatherland and the people.

9. TO CARRY OUT EQUALITY BETWEEN MAN AND WOMAN; TO PROTECT MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

— To pay the utmost attention to raising the political, cultural and vocational standard of the women, in view of their merits in the struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation. To develop the Vietnamese women's traditions of heroism, dauntlessness, fidelity and ability to shoulder responsibilities.

— Women are equal to men in the political, economic, cultural and social fields.

— Women who do the same job receive the same salary and allowances and enjoy the same rights as men.

— Women workers and civil servants enjoy two months' maternity leave with full pay, before and after childbirth.

— To apply a policy of actively favouring, fostering and training women cadres.

— To promulgate progressive marriage and family regulations.

— To protect the rights of mothers and children. To develop the network of maternity homes, creches and infant classes.

— To eliminate all social evils brought about by the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys, which are harmful to women's health and dignity.

10. TO STRENGTHEN UNITY AND PRACTICE EQUALITY AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE AMONG NATIONALITIES

— To abolish all systems and policies applied by the imperialists and their lackeys with a view to dividing, oppressing and exploiting the various nationalities. To oppose discrimination against and forcible assimilation of national minorities.

— To develop the long-standing tradition of unity and mutual assistance among the various fraternal nationalities in our country with a view to defending and building the country. All nationalities are equal in rights and obligations.

— To implement the agrarian policy with regard to peasants of national minorities. To encourage and help them settle down to sedentary life, improve their lands, develop economy and culture, and raise their living standard so as to catch up with the general standard of the people.

— The national minorities have the right to use their own spoken and written languages to develop their own culture and art; they have the right to maintain or change their customs and habits.

— To strive to train minority cadres so as to enable the minorities within a short time to manage local affairs by themselves.

— In the areas where national minorities live concentrated and where the required conditions prevail, autonomous zones will be established within independent and free Viet Nam.

11. TO RESPECT FREEDOM OF CREED, TO ACHIEVE UNITY AND EQUALITY AMONG THE DIFFERENT RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES

— To fight against all manoeuvres and tricks of the imperialists and their lackeys, who use a number of persons putting on the cloak of religion to oppose our people's struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation, sow dissension between believers and non-believers and among different religious communities, and harm the country, the people, and religion.

— To respect freedom of creed and worship. To preserve pagodas, churches, sanctuaries, temples.

— All religions are equal and are not subject to any discrimination.

— To achieve unity among believers of various religions, and between believers and the entire nation, for the sake of the struggle against the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys to defend and build the country.

12. TO WELCOME PUPPET OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS AND PUPPET OFFICIALS BACK TO THE JUST CAUSE; SHOW LENIENCY AND GIVE HUMANE TREATMENT TO RALLIED ARMYMEN AND PRISONERS-OF-WAR

— To oppose the U.S. imperialists' and the puppet administration's attempts to pressgang mercenaries to serve the U.S. aggressors against the country and massacre the people.

— To severely punish the die-hard thugs acting as obedient agents of the U.S. imperialists.

— To afford conditions for puppet officers and soldiers and puppet officials to come back to the just cause and join the people's fight against U.S. aggression to save and build the country.

— Individuals, groups or units of the puppet army and administration who have fought against U.S. aggression, for national salvation will be rewarded and promoted to adequate positions. Those who sympathize with and support the struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation, or those who refuse to carry out orders of the U.S. and puppets to harm the people, will have their merits recorded.

— Individuals, groups or units who have broken away from the puppet army and voluntarily apply to join the liberation armed forces for fighting against the U.S. to save the country are welcomed and enjoy equal treatment.

Regarding those individuals or units who have broken away from the puppet army and administration and risen against the U.S. aggressors to save the country, the Front stands ready for joint action with them against the U.S. aggressors, on a basis of equality, mutual respect and assistance so as to protect the people and liberate the Fatherland.

— Functionaries of the puppet administration who volunteer to serve the country and the people in State services after the liberation of South Viet Nam will enjoy equal treatment.

— Those in the puppet army and puppet administration at any level who have committed crimes against the people but are now sincerely repentant will be pardoned. Those who redeem their crimes by meritorious deeds will be rewarded accordingly.

Captured officers and soldiers of the puppet army will enjoy humane treatment and leniency.

— Men in the U.S. army and its satellite armies who cross over to the people's side will be given kind treatment and helped to return to their families when conditions permit.

— Captured U.S. and satellite troops will receive the same treatment as captured puppet troops.

13. TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS AND INTERESTS OF OVERSEAS VIETNAMESE

— To hail the patriotism of overseas Vietnamese and highly value all their contributions to the people's resistance to U.S. aggression, for national salvation.

—To protect the rights and interests of overseas Vietnamese.

—To help all overseas Vietnamese who wish to return to the country to take part in national construction.

14. TO PROTECT THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS AND INTERESTS OF FOREIGN RESIDENTS IN SOUTH VIET NAM

—To hail those foreign residents who have contributed to the Vietnamese people's resistance to U.S. aggression, for national salvation.

—All foreign residents living in South Viet Nam must respect the independence and sovereignty of Viet Nam and obey the law of the national democratic administration.

—To protect the legitimate rights and interests of all foreign residents who have not cooperated with the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen in opposing the Vietnamese people, and who have not harmed the independence and sovereignty of Viet Nam. To give adequate consideration to the rights and interests of those foreign residents who have directly or indirectly supported the Vietnamese people's resistance to U.S. aggression, for national salvation.

—To resolutely oppose and abolish all policies of the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen aimed at sowing dissension between the Vietnamese people and Chinese residents in South Viet Nam, exploiting and repressing Chinese residents, and forcing them to adopt Vietnamese citizenship.

— To punish the die-hard agents and secret agents of the imperialists and the South Viet Nam puppet administration.

III

TO RESTORE NORMAL RELATIONS BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH VIET NAM; ADVANCE TOWARD PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION OF THE FATHERLAND

Viet Nam is one, the Vietnamese people are one. No force can divide our Fatherland. Reunification of the country is the sacred aspiration of our entire people. Viet Nam must be reunified.

The policy of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation is as follows:

1. The reunification of Viet Nam will be realized step by step and through peaceful means on the principle of negotiation between the two zones without either side using pressure against the other and without foreign interference.

2. Pending the reunification of the country, the people in both zones will make joint efforts to

oppose foreign invasion and defend the Fatherland, and at the same time endeavour to expand economic and cultural exchanges. The people in both zones are free to exchange letters, to go from one zone to the other and to choose their place of residence.

IV

TO CARRY OUT A FOREIGN POLICY OF PEACE AND NEUTRALITY

The South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation carries out a foreign policy of peace and neutrality, which guarantees the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the country and helps safeguard world peace. This policy consists of the following concrete points:

1. To establish diplomatic relations with all countries regardless of their social and political system, on the principles of mutual respect for each other's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity; non-infringement upon each other's territory; non-interference in each other's internal affairs; equality, mutual benefit and peaceful co-existence.

To abolish all unequal treaties which the puppet administration has signed with the United States or any other country.

To respect the economic and cultural interests of those countries which sympathize with, support or assist the Vietnamese people's struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation.

To accept from all countries technical and economic assistance without political conditions attached.

To join no military alliance; to accept no military personnel or military base of foreign countries on South Viet Nam territory.

2. To strengthen friendly relations with all countries which sympathize with, support or assist the Vietnamese people's struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation.

To strengthen good neighbourly relations with Cambodia and Laos. To unceasingly strengthen the solidarity and mutual assistance between the peoples of the Indo-Chinese countries, with a view to defending their respective independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity against the aggressive and warlike policy of the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen.

3. To actively support the national liberation movement of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America against imperialism and old and new colonialism.

To actively support the struggle of the American people against the U.S. imperialists' war of aggression in Viet Nam.

To actively support the just struggle of American Negroes for their fundamental national rights.

To actively support the struggle for peace, democracy and social progress in all countries of the world.

4. To actively struggle to contribute to the safeguarding of world peace, oppose the bellicose and aggressive imperialists headed by U.S. imperialism. To demand the dissolution of all aggressive military blocs and foreign military bases of imperialism.

To unceasingly consolidate and develop relations with international democratic organizations and the peoples of all countries, including the American people.

To actively contribute to the consolidation and development of the world peoples' front in support of Viet Nam against the U.S. imperialist aggressors, for national independence and peace.

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Our people's struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation, is extremely hard but very glorious.

It concerns not only the destiny of our people at present and in future, but also the interests of the peoples in the world who are struggling for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress. In order to accomplish that glorious task, our people, already united, must achieve still closer and broader unity.

The South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation warmly hails all political parties, mass organizations, patriotic and progressive personalities who broadly rally within and without the Front and pool their efforts to defeat the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen.

Our people's struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation, is a just one. Our people throughout the country are of one mind in their determination to fight and defeat the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen. The sympathy, support and assistance of the peoples of the socialist countries, the Asian, African and Latin American countries, and peace- and justice-loving people all over the world, including progressive people in the United States, is becoming deeper and stronger day by day. We are winning, and will surely win complete victory.

No matter how frenzied, brutal, obdurate and perfidious the U.S. imperialists may be, they will inevitably meet with bitter failure in their criminal schemes.

In the supreme interest of the Fatherland, let the entire people of South Viet Nam strengthen solidarity, millions as one, and rush forward shoulder to shoulder in the impetus of our victories to completely defeat the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys, the puppet administration, and together with our northern compatriots fulfil the great and glorious cause of liberating the South, defending the North and advancing toward the peaceful reunification of the Fatherland.

The South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation pledges itself to remain always worthy of the confidence of our compatriots and our friends on the five continents.

The Vietnamese people will surely be victorious!

The U.S. aggressors and their henchmen will certainly be defeated!

The Programme of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation is sure to be carried into effect.

Fighters and compatriots throughout South Viet Nam, under the glorious banner of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, march forward heroically!